

**National Marine Sanctuary Program  
Advisory Council Information Bulletin  
January 2004**

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**

Claire Johnson was interviewed by Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools, Bill Cirone, for a Cox Channel 8 "Life to Learning" show. Cox 8 will be airing a three-part series of 30 minute shows focusing on the JASON Project and JASON XIV: From Shore to Sea at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park. The three "Life to Learning" episodes will air throughout the month of January 2004.

The sanctuary participated in the Cabrillo High School's Career Day to discuss employment opportunities, educational requirements, nature of work, common workday, memorable personal experiences and more.

**Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

Jennifer Stock did a presentation about Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary for the Point Reyes National Seashore Elephant Seal/ Gray Whale interpretation Docents. A check out kit was prepared of images docents can use to communicate about the national marine sanctuaries off the coast of the park.

**Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary**

Nancy Daschbach, sanctuary manager, was a panelist on the University of Hawai'i Undersea Research Laboratory/NOAA's Undersea Research Center's Science and Technical Review Panel, which reviewed and selected research proposals for NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, 2004/05. Eleven proposals are being reviewed, and four of the projects were proposed for American Samoa, three of those in the sanctuary.

Education Coordinator Rosia Tavita was interviewed on KVZK Television news regarding her participation at the 4th PACPOL-Ocean Pollution Prevention Workshop for South Pacific Islands that was held in Auckland, New Zealand.

The sanctuary manager met with the American Samoa Director of Education to brief him on the plans to begin a teachers' professional development program next summer, Teachers Voyaging the Pacific. This project will be jointly sponsored by the Pacific Island programs and includes the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant program as a partner. The director supported the program.

The sanctuary has extended the Save-A-Beach Program challenge to not only groups, but also whole schools to take part in this month's activity. This month the groups created a Christmas tree from the materials they collected during their clean-ups both at the beach and the school campus. The schools of Alataua Lua, Le'atele, and Taputapu held a recycled Christmas tree competition as part of their Christmas celebration as well as showing their support for the Save-A-Beach program.

### **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**

Sanctuary Educator Nancy Diersing presented the Sounding Line Information Series to high school students from the Marine Studies Program at Coral Shores High School. During the next few months, students will be reading articles of their choice from the Sounding Line Information Series and answering related summary questions. The Information Series is a compilation of articles related to marine resource management, research, and restoration projects and issues, written by contributors to the Sounding Line newsletter of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The sanctuary hosted a Monroe County Teachers Workshop on December 6, 2003, at Seacamp/NHMI for 24 new teachers to the county. The teachers were given field interpretation on the pine rock lands, beach/dune, mangrove and near shore hard bottom community. Marine mammal, algae and jellyfish labs were also offered. Cool windy weather kept the participants off the water. Each teacher was given a stipend, in-service credit and a copy of the Florida Keys Environmental Story and Teacher workbook along with publication from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Audubon, Reef Relief and Bahia Honda State Park.

The sanctuary's lower region Team Ocean Specialist presented a talk to twelve participants at a local US Coast Guard Auxiliary Safe Boating Course entitled "Things You Should Know When Boating in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary."

### **Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary**

The sanctuary was requested by the Minerals Management Service to review an "Initial Exploration Plan" submitted by Arena Offshore/Triumph Energy Inc. to drill two new exploration wells and construct a well protection structure within lease area High Island block A-366. The location of this activity is approximately 1.5 miles north of the boundary of the East Flower Garden Bank, and within the 4-mile buffer zone surrounding the sanctuary.

A meeting of the offshore oil and gas companies involved in the Flower Garden Banks "Joint Industry Project" (JIP) was held in Houston on December 10. The JIP was created in response to requirements for oil spill mitigation and planning by companies with offshore oil and gas activities within the high-risk spill zone surrounding the sanctuary. The project funds two oceanographic data buoys, which collect real time wind and current data and make it available via the Internet. The buoys are part of the Texas Automated Buoy System and are maintained by Texas A&M University. Both buoys were lost this past summer due to hurricanes, and are scheduled to be replaced this month. The meeting is for industry representatives to meet with the buoy technicians to discuss ways to make the buoy system more reliable.

### **Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary**

Seven public hearings on the Gray's Reef Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS) were completed in early December. All staff supported the hearings by facilitating, recording, welcoming and providing information. Attendance by users (fishermen and spearfishermen) outweighed all other interest sectors, although comments have been received from a broader range of interests. The comment period ended January 1<sup>st</sup>. Reed

Bohne, sanctuary manager, presented an overview of the sanctuary's DMP/DEIS and public comment to date to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Mayor of Savannah, Floyd Adams issued a proclamation declaring January 16, 2004 as Gray's Reef NMS Day in Savannah, the anniversary of the site's designation. Plans are for this to be an annual occasion.

### **Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary**

The sanctuary received an alert of an impending vessel sinking in Tomales Bay. The vessel was moored with no passengers on board. Point Reyes National Seashore notified the sanctuary that the vessel "Santana," a 38 ft. powerboat, had been moored at Nick's Cove over a period of time, was listing and sinking due to heavy rain. Per the Coast Guard, vessel response was not initiated due to weather and because there was no threat to life. Coast Guard Bodega will attempt to respond when inclement weather subsides, and will contact the sanctuary office if response is to be mounted. The owner told the Coast Guard that there are no hazardous materials or fuel on board.

### **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary**

Sanctuary Manager Naomi McIntosh and O'ahu Program Coordinator Christine Brammer took part in the grand opening of the Hawaiian Humpback Whale Center at the Waikoloa Marriott, an Outrigger Resort, which was a partnership effort between the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, Marriott Hotels, and Ocean Sports. The sanctuary hosted a booth that featured information on the sanctuary program and hands on activities for children, including a "Whale of Fortune" game and the ever-popular humpback whale hats.

Sanctuary staff involved with recruiting, training and managing sanctuary volunteers on three islands met in November at the sanctuary office in Kihei, Maui to discuss and coordinate registration processes, position descriptions, and documentation. Administrative Assistant Liz Russell, Maui Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hylkema, Oahu Program Coordinator Chris Brammer and Kauai Liaison Jean Souza participated.

The sanctuary's native Hawaiian cultural educator provided an informal lecture to a group on 'Ao'ao O Na Loko I'a O Maui, the non-profit organization working to restore the fishpond that fronts the sanctuary property in Kihei, Maui. Interest in protecting the Hawaiian fish ponds remains high throughout the islands.

### **Monitor National Marine Sanctuary**

The sanctuary manager participated in a workshop on integrating social sciences into marine protected area management. The workshop, sponsored by NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center, drew approximately 25 participants from the Southeast Region (Virginia to Florida). The manager and several other archaeologists, along with social scientists, economists, and resource managers, developed recommendations for a wide-range of goals, studies, and activities for an improved integration of social sciences into the planning and management of marine protected areas. NOAA's MPA Center plans to summarize and distribute the results of the workshop.

The sanctuary manager attended an initial planning meeting with the U.S. Navy for a 2004 Monitor expedition. The Navy's Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two (MDSU-TWO) is planning to conduct a 3-4 week expedition to the Monitor for the purposes of Navy diver training, site cleanup, and research, as agreed by NOAA and MDSU TWO. Navy divers will operate from a Navy salvage ship on a mooring over the Monitor. No NOAA dives will be made during 2004. The NMSP and Navy have coordinated several dive missions at the sanctuary, most notably the raising of the ship's propeller, steam engine and the turret.

### **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**

The Monterey Bay Watershed Education and Training Program, run through NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, has provided a grant to Carmel Middle School that will enable students to learn about the river that runs past their school and into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The project will reach all 650 students in the Middle School by bringing the children out of their classrooms and into their watershed to assess the health of the Carmel River. The students will be investigating some of the problems associated with the river and the watershed, such as erosion, vegetation loss, diminished wildlife densities and declines in steelhead and invertebrates. They will learn how to monitor fish traps, conduct water quality tests, operate plant surveys, perform bird density measurements, sample invertebrate and plankton tows, and perform herpetology surveys along the river. Information gathered will be shared with local agencies to begin to determine ways the river and watershed can be restored to a healthy environment. The goal is to raise students' social awareness, stimulate observation, motivate critical thinking and develop problem-solving skills, as well as a respect and appreciation for nature in their journey toward becoming good stewards of the environment.

The sanctuary's Community and Public Relations Coordinator gave a presentation on the sanctuary to the Sunrise Rotary Club of Monterey. Over 50 local business owners and community members attended. A similar presentation will be given to the Monterey Kiwanis Club.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary/Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute's Research Fellow attended the American Geophysical Union Meeting in San Francisco and presented a poster on the Pioneer Seamount cable survey. The meeting attracted over 10,000 earth scientists with presentations on topics such as water quality, marine and coastal processes, biogeochemical cycles, and earth science education.

The sanctuary's Regulatory Coordinator, met with the president of a Monterey County construction firm to begin planning for a 3-hour seminar in March 2004 aimed at educating coastal construction contractors about best management policies that avoid damage to sanctuary resources and qualities. The seminar will also provide information on sanctuary and State Coastal Commission regulations affecting construction projects in the coastal zone. Robert Ketley and Associates, a consultant under contract with the sanctuary, will coordinate with the construction firm to develop an invitation list, agenda, and program for the seminar.

On December 16, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network held an organizational meeting on the removal of the invasive seaweed *Undaria pinnatifida* from the Monterey Harbor. In collaboration with the City of Monterey, Community Resources Volunteer Services and Harbor Office, presented an overview of the recent efforts to remove and manage *Undaria pinnatifida* in the Monterey Harbor.

### **Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve**

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve's Mokupapapa Discovery Center had 1220 visitors in the five-day holiday period including a group of 28 students from Kamehameha Preschool. On Saturday December 20, there were 476 visitors, which is extremely busy for the center. The Center also had its first official evening program (third Thursday by the bay) with presentations on the Laysan Duck/Teal and the challenges of doing research in the NWHI. The event was well attended. To find out more about the Discovery Center visit our web page: <http://hawaiiireef.noaa.gov/center/welcome.html>

### **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary**

Sanctuary Education Specialist Greg McCormack spent a day along the coast (Kalaloch and La Push) with Jean-Pierre Devorsine, French film producer interested in a shellfish story to be filmed early next year and shown in late 2004.

Sanctuary Education and Outreach Coordinator Bob Steelquist attended his first meeting as a board member of North Olympic Visitor and Convention Bureau. He reported on the Olympic Coast Discovery Center progress and on plans for the sanctuary's 10th Anniversary Coast Fest Celebration July 16, 17 and 18, 2004.

### **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve**

Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans accepted the extensive Labadie/Perry Great Lakes Research Collection donated to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, which focuses on 19th and early 20th century Great Lakes vessels, ports, and commodities. The collection has a special emphasis on wooden shipbuilding technology, and includes books, manuscripts, maps and charts, shipbuilding plans, photographs, negatives, slides, vertical and card files, microfilm and videos. The collection is perhaps among the richest collection of 19th-century Great Lakes maritime history research material in the nation, including material reflecting the type of maritime archaeological resources in Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. It consists of approximately 800 bound volumes, 450 6x9-1/2-inch binders (with 25,000 mounted photographs and 2,000 research folders, 10 drawers of photographs estimated 20,000 images), 28 file drawers and 40 linear feet of periodicals, manuscript material and ephemera, 12 drawers of photographic negatives, 1,000 color slides, 60,000 4x6 file cards, 90 video cassettes, 64 reels of microfilm, 100 navigational charts, 200 shipbuilding plans, and 2 boxes (100 pieces) of maritime posters, art, and oversized photographs. The collection is a great asset and opportunity for NOAA to maintain these important documents and materials on behalf of the public. The maritime treasures will be accessible at the Alpena County Public Library.

The Thunder Bay NMS/UP decorated a Christmas tree, which was on display during the holiday season at Alpena's Jesse Besser Museum. The Sanctuary's tree is a testament to the many Great Lakes ships lost in Lake Huron and a memorial to the men and women who lost their lives on them.

### **National Marine Sanctuary Program**

Maria Brown, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary's assistant manager, accepted the position of sanctuary manager. She will begin work in her new position on January 26, 2004.

The NMSP director Daniel J. Basta and other sanctuary staff will accompany the Discovery Channel and staff of the National Park Service to conduct submersible dives on the recently discovered Japanese midget submarine just outside the mouth of Pearl Harbor. The divers will be conducting corrosion studies on the sub. The dives will be filmed. The dives will be conducted using the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory's Pisces submersible. To read more about the midget sub, and see some neat images visit the HURL web site: <http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/HURL/midget.html>.

In recent months, the NMSP "Alligator Team" has worked tirelessly with the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research to publicize the National Marine Sanctuary Program's recent discovery of the original design drawings of the Union submarine that were located in France. Stories appeared in the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Atlanta Journal Constitution, and other outlets. Stories are also expected to appear in the Baltimore Sun and Philadelphia Inquirer. New information about the vessel was posted on the Alligator Project Web site [www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/alligator](http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/alligator).

NMSP made a presentation to a delegation of government officials from Mozambique interested in developing management programs for protecting their coastal resources (both natural and cultural), while building ecotourism and other economic activities. They were particularly interested in how NMSP and the National Park Service both manage their cultural resources. The International Programs Office is in discussions with Mozambique to build a formal technical exchange/training program similar to the one that was formed with South Africa several years ago.

Representatives from the NMSP Communications Branch met with The Science Channel's (TSC) senior producer to discuss potential collaborative efforts with the Discovery Channel, namely the progress and plans for the NOAA/Navy Alligator Project and the upcoming release of TSC's documentary "The Wreck of the Portland."

